

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

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IO-10 MC-02 MMO-04 /084 W

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P R 140645Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1712

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 13713

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, USINJC, IN, US

SUBJECT: CHAVAN GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE ON RETURN FROM U.S.

SUMMARY: IN AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN HAS TERMED AS "POSITIVE" THE GAINS OF HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. REPORTING THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY REAFFIRMED THE DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH INDIA HE CONCEDED THEY MAINTAINED THEIR STAND ON ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA.

1. NEW DELHI DAILIES TODAY CARRIED EXTENSIVE ACCOUNTS OF THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN ON HIS RETURN FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND WASHINGTON. " INDIA AND U.S. KEEN ON IMPROVING TIES: CHAVAN" (THE TIMES OF INDIA), "U.S. VISIT FRUITFUL, SAYS CHAVAL - DIFFERENCES ON ARMS TO PINDI PERSIST" (INDIAN EXPRESS) AND "U.S. KEEN ON COOPERATION WITH INDIA" (NATIONAL HERALD) REPRESENTED THE TONE SET BY THE PRESS MEETING.

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2. INDO- U.S. RELATIONS WAS ONE OF THE MANY TOPICS

COVERED WITH NEWSMEN. SUMMING UP THIS SITUATION CHAVAN SAID BOTH COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATIONS BUT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT MIRACLES. " WE SHOULD BE MORE PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC IN SUCH MATTERS, KEEPING OUR NATIONAL INTEREST IN MIND," HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING. INDICATING THAT ON THE POLITICAL PLANE THEIR IS AN AREA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEW DELHI AND WASHINGTON HE POINTED OUT THEIR ARE DIFRERENCES WHICH CANNOT BE BRUSHED ASIDE." I WOULD SAY THAT WHENEVER THE AREAS OF COOPERATION WERE DISCUSSED THE DISCUSSIONS WERE POSITIVE," HE SAID.

3. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT: BOTH NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS AND RADIO AND TV COVERAGE ON MONDAY NIGHT PLAYED UP CHAVAN'S REPORT THAT PRESIDENT FORD MEANT NO OFFENSE IN HIS STATEMENT ABOUT THE EMERGENCY IN INDIA AND THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD NOT HAD THE "PRIVILEGE" OF MEETING PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND LOOKED FORWARD TO COMING TO INDIA AT SOME DATE IN THE FUTURE.

4. ARMS TO PAKISTAN: THE SECRETARY TOLD HIM THAT WHILE NO SALES HAD YET GONE THROUGH, THE U.S. WAS COMMITED TO SUPPLY ARMS TO PAKISTAN. CONCLUDING, CHAVAN COMMENTED THE U.S. "UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD DO SO IN KEEPING WITH ITS POLICY." THE SUBJECT, HE SAID, WAS A SENSITIVE MATTER CREATING TENSION IN THE SUB-CONTINENT AND WAS NOT IN CONSONANCEWITH THE U.S. DESIRE FOR AMITY BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

5. DIEGO GARCIA: QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WAS DISCUSSED, CHAVAN REPLIED," I NATURALLY MENTIONED THIS AND THE FEELING OF OPPOSITION AMONG THE LITTORAL STATES INCLUDING INDIA." THE AMERICANS " HAVE THEIR OWN POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT," HE CONCEDED.

6. INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: REPORTING ON A MEETING WITH PAKISTAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAVAN SAID THE SESSION EMPHASIZED "GOODWILL THOUGH THE QUESTION OF PAKISTAN'S PROPAGANDA AGAINST INDIA WAS BROUGHT UP. THE THEME OF THE MEETING WAS A DESIRE TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION AND WHILE NO UNCLASSIFIED

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DATE HAS BEEN SET IT IS HOPED THAT A INDO-PAKISTAN MEETING TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUED WITH TAKE PLACE SHORTLY.  
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**To:** STATE  
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